

**Katrina Response Environmental Soil and Sediment Sampling
Quality Assurance Study Plan
Peer Review Charge**

Background

The US-EPA, Region 4 Science & Ecosystem Support Division (SESD), Environmental Investigations Branch (EIB) has been requested by the Region 4 Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) to have the “Katrina Response Environmental Soil and Sediment Sampling” Quality Assurance Study Plan (QAPP) peer reviewed by appropriate members of EPA’s Science Advisory Board (SAB).

This study is being conducted at the request of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the US-EPA Region 4 Waste Management Division. EIB has a considerable degree of experience in soil and sediment sampling. The branch has conducted numerous large and small scale soil and sediment investigations designed to detect releases of hazardous constituents to the environment. The sampling/sample handling procedures and analytical methods used by SESD are clearly outlined in the referenced Branch Quality Assurance Manuals and Standard Operating Procedures. These procedures have not only been used for many scientific data collection activities, but have also served as the basis for sample collection methods in highly scrutinized civil and criminal proceedings.

The QAPP being submitted provides sufficient detail to meet the intent of QA/R-5, and we believe that it contains the information needed with regard to the planning, implementation and assessment phases of the study. All SAB comments will be carefully considered and appropriate changes to the QAPP will be made following receipt of the SAB review.

Charge to the SAB

In accordance with the agency’s Peer Review Policy, EAB is requesting SAB technical input on the following areas in the QAPP.

- Project objectives – are they clearly stated?
- Sampling design – will it provide the data needed to meet the stated objectives?

EPA Region 4 Technical Contact

If you have technical questions concerning the Quality Assurance Procedures or Standard Operating Procedures referenced in the QAPP, please send an email to the EPA Region 4 technical contact, Fred Sloan at sloan.fred@epa.gov and send a copy of your email to Tom Armitage, Designated Federal Officer, EPA Science Advisory Board at armitage.thomas@epa.gov.